



Coast Guard Flag Voice 27

LIFELines

The Coast Guard is partnering with the Navy and others in a two-year pilot project, LIFELines, that began officially the end of January. A human resources services delivery initiative, LIFELines will harness interactive, multimedia telecommunications technologies, including Internet, satellite broadcasting, videoteleconferencing, and cable television to ensure DOD and Coast Guard personnel equal access to high quality services regardless of duty location. This joint venture initially includes the Navy, Marine Corps, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Coast Guard and supports active duty members, reservists, and retirees.

Currently, development is in its infancy. At present, LIFELines electronically shares information common to all the services. The long-term vision is for LIFELines' Internet component to help our people find housing, register for school and training courses, schedule and receive counseling services, take a training course, go to the library, learn about the military lifestyle, get a loan, obtain information on medical care, find out about job opportunities, shop at the exchange, and buy uniforms, to name just a few options. At future selected sites, LIFELines' broadcast component will conduct desktop telecounseling, distance learning, and electronic home visits for new parents and provide links to support groups.

As a partner in this effort, we will begin establishing LIFELines Resource Centers - multimedia, Internet-accessible computer stations - at three sites, tentatively slated for the Academy, TRACEN Petaluma, and the Housing Area Community Center in Bayamon, PR. However, anyone with Internet access at home or at work can visit the LIFELines site.

LIFELines has great potential to truly leverage technology to improve the workplace for all of our people, no matter where their station, home, or deployment. Although initially developed for human resources services delivery, the potential impact on recruiting, training, and personnel business practices is profound. Right now it is difficult to envision precisely what LIFELines will mature into, but the Coast Guard will seek to take maximum advantage. No one can begin to predict what communications technology may do for us in the future.

Although in the early stages of construction, I encourage you to call it up at work or home:

<http://www.lifelines4qol.org/>

Please note as currently configured, our SWSIII desktop cannot take advantage of all the multimedia features. Those upgrading now from SWSII will have more of this capability, as eventually will the

earlier SWSIII deployments.

Regards, FL Ames



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